

Benediction February 2012

Newsletter

*Benediction Lutheran Church – 8475 W. Fond du Lac Ave
Milwaukee, WI – 414-463-9158*

The next **GERMAN WORSHIP SERVICE** is on Sunday, February 19. You can hear Pastor Hougard's and Pastor Klatt's weekly radio program (in German) *Evangelische Andacht*, every Saturday at 4:30 p.m. on WJYI, 1340 AM and also on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. on German Kino Plus on the Dish Network German package.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN



If there is severe weather and Benediction's church services or other activities are canceled or delayed, the announcement will be on television channels 4, 6, 12, and 58. You might also want to check our website or facebook page.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Lenten Worship Services will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 22**. Each Wednesday we will have a meal at 5:30 and worship at 7:00 p.m. Our first meal on February 22 will be a ***chicken dinner*** served by a group of volunteers. The Ash Wednesday Worship Service will include Holy Communion. Please join us.



Please note that there will be no Thursday evening worship services during the Lenten season.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

During Lent, Confirmation classes will be held from **5:00-6:00 p.m.** We will return to the regular schedule on April 18.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

In February we will have a five part study on the Walther movie, which was recently released by Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. The movie looks at the issues that led to the formation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and the life of the man who was the first president. The movie should be a good complement to the Walther newsletter articles that we had in the past year. Join us each Sunday from 10:30-11:15 for our weekly Bible class.

NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE STOCK-UP SALE

Northwestern Publishing House is the official publishing house of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Their 7th annual stock-up sale is February 3-11. NPH titles are 30-60% off. Their store is located at 1250 N. 113th St, which is near Watertown Plank Rd and Hwy 100.

SISTERS IN SERVICE

Our **next meeting** will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 9:00 a.m. in the educational building. All confirmed women are invited to attend.

We thank everyone for making our Cookie Walk, Craft Sale and lunch a success. Our profit was \$1,308.00 and we will be planning projects and mission donations with that money at our March 31 meeting.

TIME TO STRAIGHTEN UP!



Our Church home is similar to our own homes in that we tend to accumulate things that need to be de-cluttered on occasion. The SIS Group will soon be cleaning/clearing the Banner Room and the Choir Room in church. If there is anything you want saved, please clear it out and store it properly by Sun., Feb. 5. Items that aren't marked/cleared out may be donated so please make sure to take a look before Feb. 5. Thanks for your help.

CIRCUIT FORUM

At our Circuit Forum on January 14 Pastor Hougard was reelected as the circuit counselor. Because our circuit is short one congregation, we also passed a resolution to ask for circuit realignment in the 2015 convention.

FRIENDSHIP POT-LUCK



Please join us on **Friday February 17 at 6:30 pm** for a special friendship pot luck dinner. We are hoping to have all of our ministries represented. Pastor Gui will provide a presentation on his recent mission trip to Africa. We ask you to bring a dish to pass. It can be a main dish, salad, and/or dessert. Please also bring your friends and/or family. The event will be sponsored by our youth group, and the proceeds from the evening will go to the youth ministries of our congregation.

YOUTH NEWS



The **annual spring youth retreat** will at Whispering Pines will be May 18-20. It worked out well at this time last year with the weather being a bit warmer. We always need adult chaperones, so if you would like to join us, please see Pastor Hougard or Kristy Marienthal.

For pictures of last year's retreat see the photo gallery on our website.

Our **Boys Basketball Team** has been playing extremely well this year. So far they have only two losses. Their games are Sunday afternoons at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Watch the bulletin for the time each week.

LENTEN OFFERING

The Board of Stewardship has designated the Lenten Offering for the **Parish Nurse Program**. Lenten offering envelopes will be in the mailboxes on Ash Wednesday. You can return your gift any time until Easter Sunday. The parish nurse program was restarted last November with our new nurse Ellen Simandl. She currently works 8 hours/week at Benediction. Our nurse does blood pressure screening, health counseling, advocacy, newsletter articles, and other duties to assist our members in their health needs. This goes back to an old LCMS tradition in which CFW Walther writes, "A congregation shall see to it that its members in their sickness are not without the necessary help, daily and nightly nursing, and comfort." (Matt. 25:36 "I was sick, and ye visited Me." 1 Tim. 5:10: If she have relieved the afflicted.") [*Form of a Christian Congregation*, page 151] Currently we have enough funds in the account for 10 months. Any gifts to the Parish Nurse Fund in addition to the Lenten Thank Offering would be most welcome.



PAC MAN MISSION OF THE MONTH



Our February Pac Man Mission is the **Lutheran Radio Church Service**, which can be heard each week at **7:00 am on WJYI, 1340 am**. Recently, they have fallen on difficult financial times. Unless they are able to receive \$400 per week from their listeners this broadcast ministry will end on March 18, 2012. This is the one of the oldest programs in the country, which began on February 19, 1928. The Founder of The Lutheran Radio Church Service is Mr. A. J. Beyer. It was his vision, in the early years of radio broadcasting, that this medium could provide an opportunity for his aging parents, and others who were no longer physically able to regularly attend Sunday church services, to be given a means to worship from their homes. Dr. G. Christian Barth, then President of Concordia College in Milwaukee, consented to assume the duties and responsibilities of becoming the program's first Radio Director. Thus was born The Lutheran Radio Church Service.

From its inception in 1928 to 1953, The Lutheran Radio Church Service was a live broadcast, with participants broadcasting live on Sunday mornings from the WTMJ studios. In 1953, an agreement was reached to pre-record the programs for playback on Sunday mornings. The recording of these programs continued to be done at WTMJ's studios. In 1989, with a restructuring of the studios at WTMJ, recording locations away from WTMJ were required. The LCMS recordings are now made at Trinity-Freistadt Lutheran Church and the WELS recordings are made at Wisconsin Lutheran College. you can listen to The Lutheran Radio Church Service on WJYI JOY 1340-AM www.joy1340.com.

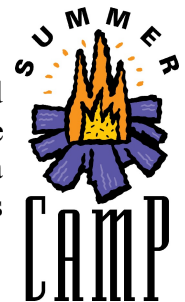


THANKS TO THE SNOW CREWS

We contract to have our parking lot plowed. However, our sidewalks are maintained by several volunteers who put a lot of effort and time into keeping our walkways safe. Thanks to all who are helping this year.

CAMP LUWISIMO

Camp Luwisimo is up and running again. There are a variety of camps for those in 2nd -12th grade from June 10- August 12. The cost is \$499/week. Brochure are available on the narthex table. If the cost is too great for your family, the LWML is providing a limited number of scholarship for the entire cost. Please see Pastor Hougard if this would be a help to you.



Here is the luwisimo website:

<http://luwisomo.org/>

SWD PASSIONATE LEADERS' CONFERENCE

The SWD Passionate Leader's Conference is on Saturday February 25 at Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hartland. The agenda follows. If you would be interested in attending, please contact the church office.

Here is the schedule for the day:

- 8:99 Registration
- 8:30 Opening Devotion Rev. Dr. John C. Wille
- 9:00 Passionate Believers for the 21st Century Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Michigan District
- 9:50 Overview of District Missions Rev. Dan McMiller, SWD
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Breakout Session 1
 - Overview of Treasurer's Manual
 - Care of Pastors
 - Stewardship Resources
 - Congregation Leadership Issues with President Wille
 - School Board Q & A with the District Education Executive
 - Employee Benefits-and Services Above and Beyond
 - Answers for Early Childhood Directors
 - Reaching Out with Services for Older Adults
- 11:45 Lunch
- 12:45 Engaging the Community and the Attention of the Media through Service , Mr. Joel English, BVK Marketing
- 1:25 Breakout Session 2
 - Mission Projects and Service Opportunities
 - Congregational Rejuvenation
 - Preparing Financial Data for Loan Presentations
 - LCEF School Marketing
 - Overview of Treasurer's Manual (Continuation from Session I)
 - Healthy Leaders / Healthy Congregations
 - Mission U and Lutheran Hour Ministry
 - Lutheran Catechesis
- 2:35 Breakout Session 3
 - Congregational Risk Management
 - Using Technology in Churches and Schools
 - When You Need to Raise More than Just a Little Money
 - Healthy Leaders / Healthy Congregations
 - Conflict Resolution in Schools
 - Mission Projects and Service Opportunities
 - Ministry in a Cross-Cultural and Urban Context
 - Know Your Team
- 3:45 Closing Devotion Rev. Dan McMiller

For more information see the article on the district website:

www.swd.lcms.org



FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

"I love you"

One of the best known days in February is Valentine's Day. Some people are tempted to call February 14th "Hallmark Holiday." Little wonder because in our country over 7,000,000,000 valentine cards are purchased each year. Most of these cards say "I love you" in one way or another. But what does "I love you" mean? Some would say that "I love you" refers to being physically attracted to a person of the opposite sex. Others would say that "I love you" means you are my special friend.

There is a deeper understanding of what it means to say "I love you." The word that comes to mind for many Christians is "agape" which we call God's kind of love. It is unconditional and keeps reaching out to other people even when they may not return this kind of love. That is certainly true of God's love for us sinners. Even when we say and do sinful things God's love reaches out to us. As the Scriptures teach, "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 NIV). Jesus Himself said in John 15:13 (NIV): "Greater love has no one than that he lay down his life for his friends."

God delights in loving and giving. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we are God's children, God's disciples, God's stewards. There is no better witness to what it means to be a child of God than for us to use all of life and life's resources in a way that brings glory to God and blessings to those whose lives we touch. May our "I love you" always be God's kind of love, God's agape love.

ANNIVERSARY THANK OFFERING



On December 31, 2011, we completed our 3 year thank offering project for the lift project and seminarians. I am happy to report that all pledges that were made for the past three years have been fulfilled.

The grand total of funds raised amounted to \$48,633.95, of which \$43,504.15 was applied to the cost of the lift and \$5,129.80 will be divided between the two seminarians. I feel we can truly be thankful for the efforts we put forth to assure that the handicapped will be able to participate in activities in the lower level of the church, and also provide funds for the seminarians so they can continue to train pastors who will continue to preach the gospel message of salvation at churches they will serve.

The members of Benediction have truly been blessed as they are a blessing to others, such as mentoring three young men as they prepare to serve in special ministries to the Hmong and French Congo people; as some members teach English to the Hmong and teach Sunday school to children who come from different walks of life.

Take a moment now to think how you have been blessed as a member of the Benediction family and give thanks for giving us the opportunity to show our appreciation for having the Gospel preached in its truth and purity through the thank offering.

THE CATECHISM FOR FEBRUARY 2012

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR - Part 4



THE LORD'S SUPPER

Who receives this sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared, who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Scripture Verses

Matthew 3:1 and 4:17 Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 The sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before He eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgement upon Himself."

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.

1 Timothy 4:8 Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Scripture Accounts

Matthew 6:16-18 Jesus' prescription for fasting

Matthew 14:21-28 The Faith of the Canaanite Woman

1 Corinthians 10:14-22; 11:17-34 The Misuse of the Lord's Supper at Corinth

Hymn

I Come O Savior to Your Table (LSB 618, LW 242; TLH 315)

